



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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January 7, 1981

RECEIVED

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Dr Kathleen Q Camin
Regional Administrator, Region 7
Environmental Protection Agency
324 E 11th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Dear Dr Camin

This is in reference to a hazards water site, an old lead mine tailing, adjacent to the Big River in St Francois County, Missouri

We submitted this waste site as an example of a serious continuous pollution problem to our central office (February, 1980) in support of the Superfund legislation. Our objectives in recommending the site was for use in the development of the natural resource provisions of the Superfund Bill and hopefully the ultimate study and correction of the lead mine tailing problem.

Fish (sucker family) in the Big River immediately below the mine tailings have lead concentrations (0.5 ppm) that are higher than the level (0.3 ppm) the World Health Organization has set as the maximum safe lead level in food for adults. The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Division of Health stated in a news release this summer that "people should be discouraged from eating large quantities of suckers from the Big River in Missouri's lead mining belt". We believe the lead tailing problem is serious enough that it should be considered as a project by Environmental Protection Agency under the Superfund Bill. We are willing to participate in the planning of such a project to the extent our manpower and funds will allow.

We would appreciate your sincere consideration of the lead mine tailing pollution problem as a project under the superfund legislation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stebbings
Bruce Stebbings
Acting Field Supervisor
Ecological Services

cc Missouri Dept of Conservation
Jefferson City, MO
Missouri Dept of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, MO



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